

Welcome to the first Community Action News e-bulletin. Our new look e-bulletin will bring you on a monthly basis news and information from members, the voluntary and charity sector. If you have any information you would like shared amongst our 200+ members please [contact](#) us by the second **Friday of each month**.. We hope you find the information interesting and useful. *The Marketing & Communications Team*

A n introduction to our services

1st April is the launch of our new look [website](#), let us know what you think by completing the short [survey](#). Please take the time to visit our site and find out more about our projects and services or becoming a [member](#). Remember to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



1 Supporting Groups

We provide a circle of support to the local community by working with voluntary and community groups to help them grow and develop through a range of support and advice services.



2 Paid for Services

We have a range of services aimed at supporting you in running your group or organisation including: *Meeting room hire, Equipment hire, Payroll and Printing.*



3 Community Transport

Transport solutions for individuals and groups to enable them to live independently, socialise with others and fulfil everyday life activities including: *Community Cars service, Minibus hire, Timetabled rural bus routes and Door to Store shopping service for the elderly*



4 Shopmobility

Based in the Marlowes Centre, Hemel Hempstead, this service hires out electric/manual wheelchairs and scooters to people with either a permanent or temporary mobility problem.



5 CAD Learning

Is an adult education project providing courses of need or fun. Please see our [website](#) for details on courses.



6 European Projects

We work with a variety of European voluntary sector counterparts and partners in Dacorum to share knowledge/experiences and new ways of working. The learning from these projects is used to inform and further develop our work in Dacorum.



7 HITS

Herts Interpreting & Translation Service

Provides language support services to NHS Trusts, Local Authorities, Criminal Justice agencies, voluntary sector organisations and commercial and private clients; offering: *Face to face interpreting, Telephone interpreting, Document translation, Language assessment*



8 Connect Dacorum

We provide information and expertise on community involvement opportunities for organisations of all sizes and support our members in the delivery of their Corporate Social Responsibility objectives.



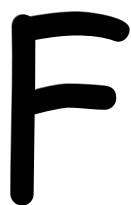
9 National Careers Service

This service offers free careers and skills advice from professional qualified careers advisors.



10 Radio Dacorum

Is a 24/7 online community radio station that promotes local activities, encourages community involvement and plays great music!



Community Grants Application

Community Grants of up to £15,000 can now be applied for by small third sector organisations. The grants are for projects supporting people from the hardest to reach communities and individuals experiencing multiple disadvantage to access employment and skills provision. The grants are co-financed through the European Social Fund and the Skills Funding Agency.

To apply visit the [Community Grants Applications page](#). The deadline is 17 April 2014

Big Potential Opens for Applications



The Big Lottery Fund has announced that its new £10 million programme to help Voluntary & Community groups and Social Enterprises (VCSEs) access social investment is open for applications. The "[Big Potential Fund](#)" will provide grants of £25,000-£75,000 to help VCSEs carry out investment readiness work with a small group of approved providers.

Inspired Facilities

This scheme from Sport England [helps local community and volunteer groups](#) to improve and refurbish sports clubs or transform non-sporting venues into modern grassroots sport facilities. Grants of £20,000 - £75,000 are available. There will no longer be separate rounds to this scheme. Decisions will be made twice a year, firstly in September 2014 for applications received prior to the 6 June.

The Small Charity Week eBay Auction

[The Small Charity Week eBay Auction](#), in partnership with [eBay for Charity](#), will be run by the Small Charity Week team during w/c 16th June 2014 to raise funds for your small charity—all you need to do is provide the item and they will do the rest, with all funds raised going back to your charity. eBay has more than 17 million users worldwide, so it's a great way to raise awareness and funding for your charity.

Financial Literacy Projects



The MSE Charity has announced that its grants programme will re-open for applications on the 1st May 2014. Grants of up to £5,000 are available for group projects that seek to educate people about money, debt and consumer issues. Deadline for [applications](#) is 31st May 2014.

Grants Available for Groups



Hertfordshire
Community Foundation

Provide Foundation
Grants for groups. The
small grants programme

provides up to £1,000 and the large grants programme is up to £5,000. The next themed round for the large grants is Disadvantaged Children and Families. Deadline for [applications](#) is 30th April 2014.



Want some funding advice?

We can help you with one to one funding advice and support in the funding application process.

To find out more go to [Community Action Dacorum](#) or contact us on [email](#) or 01442 253935.

BIG LOTTERY FUND

Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund is embarking on a strategic review that will underpin its direction and priorities for the next three to six years. They are [inviting people](#) to join in a UK wide conversation around key areas. An online "conversation space" went live in mid-March.

Wiki on social value commissioning

The SROI Network has launched a wiki website [Social Value Commissioning](#) with information on how public sector commissioning can increase the social value created.

Child Poverty Strategy

The Department for Education is [seeking views](#) on their draft 2014 - 2017 child poverty strategy, which seeks to transform the lives of the poorest children in our society. Responses can be made online or by downloading a response form by 22 May.

Progress Update

The Government has published a [progress update](#) on work 'making it easier for civil society to work with the state'. The report covers action the Office for Civil Society is taking to support the growth and success of charities, community groups and social enterprises.

Wellbeing and Health Policy

The department of health has published [evidence](#) on why wellbeing matters to health throughout someone's life, and what policy makers can do about it.

Office for Civil Society Newsletter

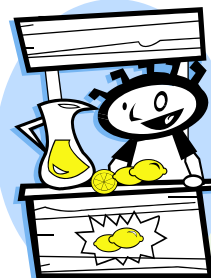
Charities Minister Nick Hurd MP sends a [monthly ebulletin](#). You can sign up for the monthly updates that include sector news, funding opportunities, consultations and more.

New Learning Disabilities Charter



Public Health England

A new [Health Charter](#) endorsed by NCF and Mencap is designed to support social care providers improve the health and well-being of people with learning disabilities, thus improving people's quality of life generally.



The "Can Do" Guide

The "Can Do" guide to organising and running voluntary and community events has been issued by The Cabinet Office aiming to dispel myths about regulations that do and don't apply to such events. It covers planning an event, licences and other permissions, health and safety, food safety, road closures and insurances and can be found [here](#).

Three Day Training Extravaganza! 22-24 May 2014, London

... DSC's ...
MAY FAYRE

With a choice of 60 workshops on offer; covering fundraising, personal development, marketing, management, leadership, governance, research & policy - start your summer with a bang and gain exciting skills and ideas for your organisation!

Ticket prices from £35! For more details and to book now visit: www.mayfayre.org.uk.



A Plan for Tring

Tring Town Council are consulting every household to have their say on the future of Tring. If you are a Tring resident and have not seen the questionnaire you can complete it online [here](#). Closing date Sunday 6th April.



CV & Interview Skills

Connect Dacorum are looking for volunteers to help run CV and interview skills workshops for pupils at Longdean School in Hemel Hempstead on Thursday 8th May. [Email](#) for details.



Charity Recognition

Community Action Dacorum would like to congratulate the Dacorum Bangladeshi Welfare Association on becoming a registered charity. If you would like support in this area [contact](#) us.



Calling all NIPPERS

If you know an older (50+) man who is either Not in Permanent Paid Employment or Retired (a NIPPER - it could be you?) then tell him about The Repair Shed. This is a new facility being launched in central Hemel to bring men together to make, mend and learn. Further details [here](#).



Afternoon Tea

Are you a Kings Langley resident, over 60 and know what your financial entitlements are? To find out more about an event run by Kings Langley Providers Forum on Thursday 8th May, 2.30-4pm at Kings Langley Community Centre call 01923 270791.

Dragons Apprentice Challenge



Well done to the 10 Secondary School teams who took part in the Dragons Apprentice Challenge raising over £12,000 for local charities. In particular Community Action Dacorum would like to thank Cavendish School who raised £900 to enable them to develop the Door to Store service.



A Museum & Art Gallery for the Borough

Dacorum Heritage Trust and Dacorum Borough Council are seeking funding to renovate The Bury building and convert it into a museum and art gallery for the borough. Please share your views and comments by completing the questionnaire [here](#) or attend one of the public consultation open days at The Bury on 2nd, 3rd, 9th & 10th April.

Opportunity to Volunteer in Bulgaria



Community Action Dacorum are looking for one volunteer aged 50+ to volunteer for 3 weeks, 7-27 May 2014, in Sofia, Bulgaria. It is a great opportunity to learn about life & communities in another part of Europe. Contact [Musarat Inayat](#) for further details.



Herts Community Solutions

Community Action Dacorum is proud to be a partner of Herts Community Solutions, a new website offering access to quality-assured products and services for voluntary and community organisations across Hertfordshire. To find out more click [here](#).